

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, AMED

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON NEW YORKER ARTICLE
ON MICROWAVES

1. THERE FOLLOWS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE DEVELOPED FOR
THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS FOR
QUESTIONS RELATING TO PAUL BRODEUR'S NEW YORK ARTICLE ON
MICROWAVES (COPY POUCHED). YOU MAY USE GUIDANCE IN BRIEFING
EMBASSY STAFF BUT ALL PRESS QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO
THE DEPARTMENT FOR REPLY.

2. QUOTE: QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE
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PAUL BRODEUR DECEMBER 20 NEW YORKER PIECE ON MICROWAVES?

ANSWER: IN TERMS OF THE MATERIAL RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE AND THE SITUATION AT EMBASSY MOSCOW, THERE IS NO-
THING NEW IN THIS ARTICLE AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL. THE IS-
SUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED ARE FAMILIAR TO THE EXPERT CON-

SULTANTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM AND I THINK WE HAVE COVERED MOST OF THAT GROUND ALREADY. AS FAR AS THE SITUATION IN MOSCOW IS CONCERNED WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT WE HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THESE SIGNALS AT RECORDED LEVELS NOW OR AT ANY LEVELS IN THE PAST HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE HEALTH OF OUR EMPLOYEES. OUR OWN MEDICAL STUDIES AND THE WORK OF JOHNS HOPKINS CONTINUES AND TO DATE WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE CAUSE FOR ALARM. I CANNOT SPEAK TO THE ARTICLE'S VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING OTHER U. S. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

QUESTION: ISN'T THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNUCKLING UNDER TO PRESSURES FROM MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS TO DOWNPLAY OR EVEN COVER UP THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MICROWAVE EFFECTS ON HEALTH?

ANSWER: NO

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE FORMER EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S WIFE WHO DIED OF CANCER?

ANSWER: I DO NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL CASES; I CAN ONLY REITERATE THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CONNECTION WITH THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS IN MOSCOW.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S HEALTH? HAS IT IMPROVED SINCE HE LEFT MOSCOW?

ANSWER: AMBASSADOR STOESSEL IS ON DUTY IN BONN AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO MY EARLIER COMMENTS.
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QUESTION: WHAT IS THE LATEST ON THE TWO CHILDREN WHO WERE EVACUATED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION IN THE U.S.?

ANSWER: AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE NEITHER OF THOSE CASES WAS CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS DIRECTED AT EMBASSY MOSCOW. ONE OF THE CHILDREN RETURNED TO MOSCOW SHORTLY AFTER EXAMINATION IN THE STATES AND THE OTHER REMAINED IN THE U.S. TO UNDERGO FURTHER EXAMINATIONS AND TREATMENT. THE SECOND CASE INVOLVED A CONGENITAL DEFECT OF THE BONE MARROW, DISCOVERED DURING THE BLOOD TEST PROGRAM. BEYOND THAT IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THE HEALTH HISTORIES OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.

QUESTION: WHAT RESULTS ARE COMING FROM THE JOHNS HOPKINS STUDY OF EMBASSY MOSCOW FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORIES?

ANSWER: THE RESEARCH CONTINUES, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO

HAVE ANY DEFINITIVE RESULTS. WE EXPECT TO MAKE THE FINDINGS KNOWN WHEN THE RESEARCHERS PROVIDE THEIR CONCLUSIONS TO US.

QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY RECENT CHANGE IN SIGNAL STRENGTH IN MICROWAVES BEAMED AT THE EMBASSY?

ANSWER: THE SIGNAL ACTIVITY AT EMBASSY MOSCOW IS MONITORED CONTINUALLY AND THE EMBASSY STAFF IS BEING KEPT UP TO DATE. THE SIGNAL STRENGTH IN ALL LIVING AND WORKING AREAS OF THE MISSION REMAINS A SMALL FRACTION OF A MICROWATT.

QUESTION: ARE WE PUSHING OUR DEMANDS THAT THE SIGNAL BE TURNED OFF:

ANSWER: OUR POSITION HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS AND WE CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE TRANSMISSIONS THEM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELVES BE TERMINATED ALTOGETHER.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE STATEMENT THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL DIRECTED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY REACHED 4 MILLIWATTS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE NEVER OBSERVED LEVELS ANYTHING NEAR THAT HIGH. AS WE HAVE ALREADY STATED, THE TYPICAL MAXIMUM LEVELS OBSERVED IN THE PERIOD WHEN THE SIGNAL INTENSITY WAS AT ITS HIGHEST LATE LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS YEAR WERE IN THE VICINITY OF 20 MICROWATTS, ONE TWO HUNDREDTH OF THE FIGURE MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE. SINCE THEN, AS YOU KNOW, THE SIGNAL STRENGTH HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. END OF QUOTE.

3. FYI: AS OF TODAY NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY PRESS ON THIS ARTICLE.
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